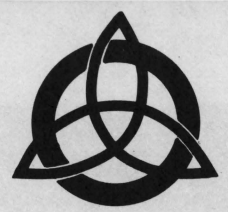


# HOME ECONOMICS

## GUIDE



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### Simple Home Repairs—Exterior

## Flat Roofs

#### Your Problem

- A leaking roof.
- The seam or edge of an overlapping felt is loose.
- Cracks or damage appear in the roofing.
- A blister has developed in the felt.

#### What You Need

- Sheet or asphalt roofing felt
- Asphalt roofing cement
- Hammer and roofing nails
- Putty knife
- Utility knife
- Paint brush

#### How-To:

Locate the leak as closely as possible from inside. Place and secure the ladder, then examine the condition of the roof from the outside.

#### Loose Felt Edges

Using a brush, clean out any dirt that may have blown under the loose felt (fig. 1). Then, using broad-head roofing nails, nail loose felt in place. Start nailing away from the felt edge and work toward the edge, to prevent making a blister in the felt. Place the nails 1 to ½ inches apart (fig. 2).

After the felt is nailed in place, cover the patched area with asphalt cement. Make sure the cement extends 1 to 1½ inches beyond the repair area (fig. 3).

#### Blisters in the Felt

Using a knife, cut the blister (fig. 4). Then put asphalt cement into the area, similar to filling a crack. Continue, using the repair procedures for cracks. (See steps 2 and 3 below.)

#### Cracks in the Roofing

1. Clean out the crack and the area around the crack.
2. Using the brush or putty knife, place a thin layer of asphalt cement over the crack. The cement should completely cover the cleaned area around the crack (fig. 5).

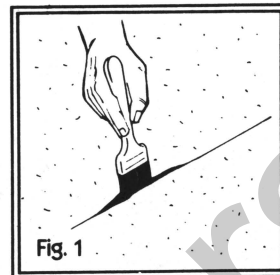


Fig. 1

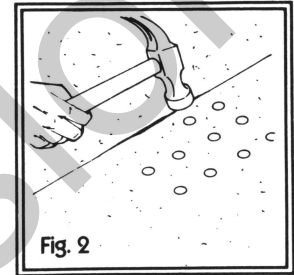


Fig. 2

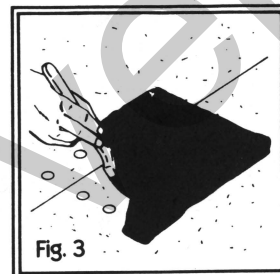


Fig. 3

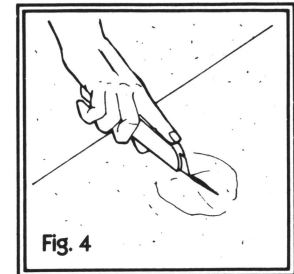


Fig. 4

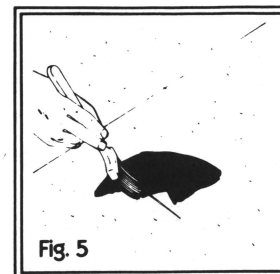


Fig. 5

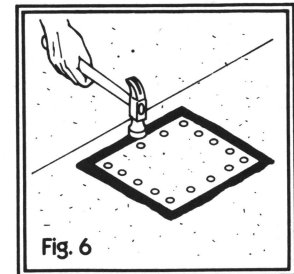


Fig. 6

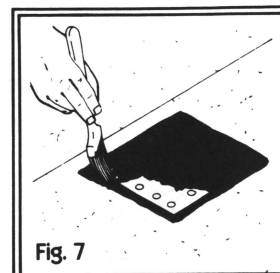


Fig. 7

3. Cut a piece of roofing felt a little larger than the crack. Place it over the cement and press it firmly in place. Nail the edges on the felt piece, spacing the nails 1 to 1½ inches apart (fig. 6). Spread another layer of cement over the felt piece. Make sure the cement extends to 1 to 1½ inches beyond all edges of the felt piece (fig. 7).

## Deteriorated or Damaged

This condition is harder to repair. Never build up or cover the old or damaged roofing with a series of felt layers. This may change the drainage pattern of the roof and create more problems.

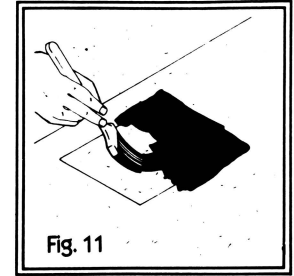
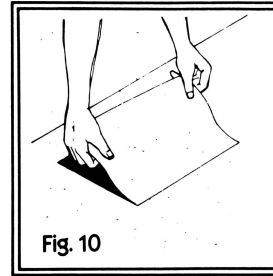
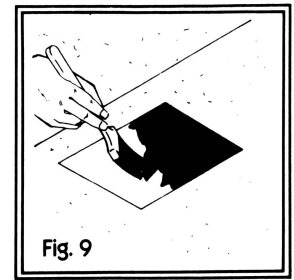
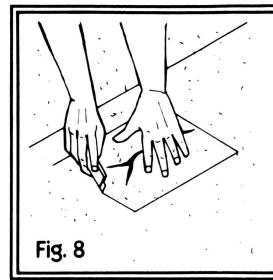
Remove damaged roofing (fig. 8). Cut out damaged felt in a rectangle. Clean the surfaces in and around the cut-out area.

Now cut pieces of felt to neatly fit the cut-out area. The number of felt strips placed should equal the number of layers of felt removed. Cut the top patch 2 to 3 inches larger so that it will overlap the cut-out area on all sides.

Spread a thin layer of asphalt cement over the cut-out area (fig. 9). Then take the first felt strip, place it into the cut-out area, and press it firmly into place (fig. 10). Now spread a thin layer of cement over the strip. Then place and firmly press down a second felt strip. Continue placing strips this way until the cut-out area is level with the original roofing.

After the cut-out area has been built up to its original level, spread a thin layer of cement over the cut-out area. Spread the cement so that it extends 3 to 4 inches beyond all edges of the area (fig. 11).

Place the oversized felt strip over the cement and press it firmly in place. Using broad-head roofing nails, nail the strip along all four edges. (Similar to fig. 6.) Then cover the strip with cement, making sure that the cement extends 1 to 1½ inches beyond all edges of the strip. (Similar to fig. 7.)



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